



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010

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### **Senate Bill 270 - An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Regional Policy on the Prohibition of Certain Gifts from Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturing Companies to Health Care Providers**

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The Department of Public Health **opposes** Senate Bill 270.

The proposed legislation is intended to improve transparency and ethical standards in the pharmaceutical and medical devices sales industry. While this bill would certainly impact entities licensed under the Department of Public Health, enforcement of the newly required measures would not fall under the existing regulatory charge of the agency. Also, no data processing infrastructure exists within DPH to handle the information collection load as described.

Implementation of this initiative would result in significant fiscal impact to the Department. Additional funding would be necessary to support the development of an electronic tracking system and to carry out the activities associated with developing and maintaining a system of this magnitude. These functions could not be absorbed within existing resources. Although a fee of \$2,000 must accompany each annual submission, it does not appear that DPH receives this money to meet the resource needs for either the additional information technology or staffing required.

The Department does not support the bill at this time, as the Governor's budget does not provide resources for this purpose.

**Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.**

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